



WELCOME TO OUR
Newsletter

Greetings from the Fall 2025 edition of the TASNA newsletter. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and are having a wonderful fall! Before we know it, the holidays will be here and a brand new year will be here before we know it!

What an unforgettable experience everyone had at the AANA Annual Congress right here in Nashville, Tennessee! From dynamic educational sessions to powerful networking opportunities, this year's Congress was filled with memorable moments and inspiration around every corner!

This month, at TANA's 88th Conference in Franklin, TN, we welcomed Levi Garrett as our new president elect for TASNA! Katy Chmelicek, our former TASNA president, has graduated and is now working as a CRNA in Memphis, TN. Congrats Katy and thank you for all you did for TASNA!!

As always, enjoy this newsletter update and we hope you share your stories and experiences with us for future newsletters! We love to hear from you!

- Erin Newberry, TASNA President & Levi Garrett,
TASNA President Elect



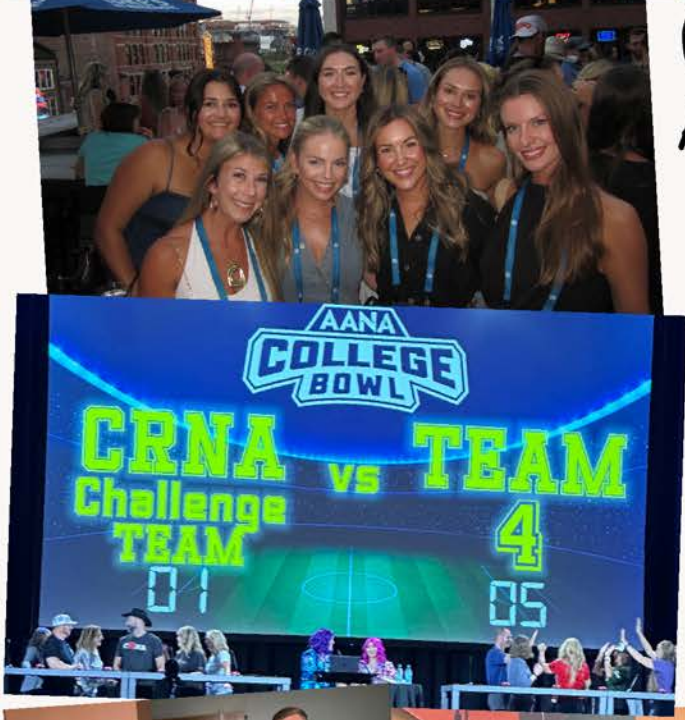
↓ In this newsletter you will find:
↓ SRNAs at AANA congress, Tennessee SRNA highlights, and upcoming events!



CANDIDS AT AANA

IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH SRNAS AND CRNAS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, LEARN FROM LEADERS IN OUR PROFESSION, AND SHOWCASE THE PASSION AND DEDICATION OF TENNESSEE'S FUTURE NURSE ANESTHETISTS.

IF YOU WERE ABLE TO ATTEND, I HOPE YOU LEFT FEELING EMPOWERED AND PROUD TO BE PART OF SUCH A MEANINGFUL PROFESSION. I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR IN BOSTON!



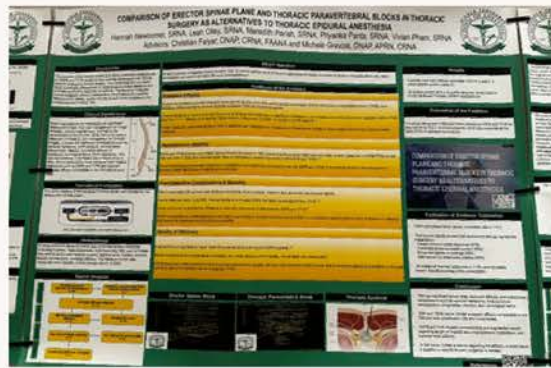
AANA 2025

ANNUAL CONGRESS + AUGUST 9-13

TANA's 88th Annual Meeting



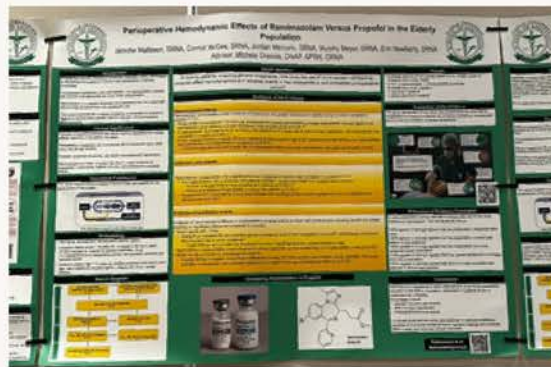
We had many **ASTOUNDING** posters presented at this year's TANA conference! Thank you to all the students for their hard work and furthering the education of anesthesia practice! There was a judging contest and below are the winners of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Congratulations to our winners!



1st place: Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia.
Comparison of Erector Spinae Plane and Thoracic Paravertebral Blocks in Thoracic Surgery as Alternatives to Thoracic Epidural Anesthesia.
 Hannah Newcomer, Leah Olley, Meredith Parish, Priyanka Panta, Vivian Pham



2nd place: Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia
Intraoperative Mechanical Power and Postoperative Pulmonary Complications: An EBP Project.
 Austin Wesley, Hayden Wood, Heath Yates, Alisa Zajac, Patrick Zuller



3rd place: Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia
Perioperative Hemodynamic Effects of Remimazolam Versus Propofol in the Elderly Population.
 Jennifer Matteson, Jordan Mercurio, Conner McGee, Murphy Meyer, Erin Newberry



BASIC SCIENCES	SPECIAL POPULATIONS	EQUIPMENT	PHARM
100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500



TASNA COLLEGE BOWL

The college bowl was packed full of energy and a good time! Thank you to all the participants that played! It was a great turn out!!



1st place: Red Team
 Alexis Lee (UTK),
 Tim Loft (UTC), Damien Brandt "tall guy" (UTHSC),
 Erin Newberry (MTSA),
 Haley Looper (Union),
 Jalen Luger (LMU)



2nd place: Blue Team
 Shanelle Cottle (UTK),
 Christian Trahan (UTC),
 Ashley Ivey (UTHSC),
 Nathaniel St Thomas (MTSA),
 Alex Cunningham (Union),
 Kelly McReynolds (LMU)



3rd place: Yellow Team
 AJ Steffens (VCU),
 Minnie Fuqua (UTC),
 Silver Kaylee (LMU),
 Katie Prichard (Union),
 James Williams (Union),
 Mason Pham (LMU)



Behind the Mask

SRNAS ACROSS TENNESSEE



Student Spotlight

AMANDA BUTLER
SRNA AT UTHSC - MEMPHIS

Hometown: Collierville, TN

Favorite case type: Lung and pediatric cases are my favorite

Go to study snack: Kettle corn and fruit

Most surprising part of CRNA school: How it not only grows you into a capable CRNA but also grows you as a person

Dream job after graduation: At the moment, includes being a part of a group that has a variety of cases with opportunities to utilize my skills and be among supportive colleagues



SRNA Snapshot



JACOB GRUBB
SRNA AT UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE - KNOXVILLE



What inspired you to pursue a future career as a CRNA?

I had an interest in becoming a CRNA after shadowing my father, who is a circulating nurse with 30 years of experience, while in high school. He introduced me to a CRNA and I thought what he did was very interesting even though I did not understand his scope of practice. I had a career in anesthesia in the back of my mind during my undergraduate studies. Fast forward 6 years, and I am in the operating room with my wife for an unplanned C-section, and the CRNA caring for her took such great care of her while maintaining a calm and caring demeanor that I became inspired to seriously pursue becoming a CRNA.

How do you maintain balance and take care of your mental health during such a rigorous program?

It is challenging to maintain a balance of caring for myself and my family while in school. Firstly, my wife is a rock star and supports me and this decision 100%. I couldn't do this without her support. I have two sons, 3 and soon to be 5 years of age. I don't get to spend as much time with them as I would like, but I try to at least play with them in the evenings for a few minutes when I get home. I am also intentional in leaving Sundays open for family time so we can attend church and do something fun/relaxing. This time ensures that I can focus on being a present husband and father. As for self care, the best thing I can do is try to do is get at least 7 hours of sleep at night and be mindful of what I am eating throughout the day.

What advice would you give to SRNAs just starting out?

First, congratulations on the achievement of being accepted into a program. Be as prepared as you can. Arrive at clinical rotations early. Be kind to everyone you encounter, and give yourself grace. You are embarking on a challenging, but rewarding journey. Remember you are a student, and you are learning, so listen to any advice anyone gives you whether you agree with it or not. It is easy to fall into the trap of imposter syndrome. I am a Christian, and I have to tell myself daily that "you are here for a reason, this is no mistake. Whatever cases come your way, and whatever challenges may arise, are no accident". That helps me when the days are long.



Help us spotlight the SRNA experience!! From study hacks to OR selfies - send us what you've got!

Send to: erin.newberry@mtsa.edu or levi.garrett@my.uu.edu

MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. – ADVOCACY IN ACTION!

Advocating for the CRNA profession isn't just important—**it's essential**. The policies being shaped today directly impact our future scope of practice, patient access to care, and the advancement of our profession. Being in Washington, D.C., surrounded by passionate peers and dedicated leaders, showed us the real impact we can make when we stand up and speak out.

Let's keep the momentum going. Join us at next year's Mid-Year Assembly and be part of the movement to protect and promote nurse anesthesia on the national stage. The more voices we bring, the stronger our message becomes!!

Your voice matters—and we need **YOU** next year! There are opportunities to be sponsored by TANA to attend! Reach out to Erin or Levi for more information!

 **Save the date for next year!**

 **April 24-April 29, 2026**

Washington, D.C

 <https://www.aana.com/meetings/mya>

ADVOCACY STARTS WITH SHOWING UP. LET'S MAKE NEXT YEAR EVEN BIGGER, BOLDER, AND LOUDER—FOR OUR PROFESSION AND OUR PATIENTS.
SEE YOU ON THE HILL!



Tennessee Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists

WWW.TNCRNA.COM/TASNA/

upcoming events & ANNOUNCEMENTS



JOIN US ON CAPITOL HILL! Nashville, TN - Spring 2026 (TBD)

This spring, make your voice count by joining us for **Day on the Hill**—an incredible opportunity to advocate for the future of nurse anesthesia right here in our state. As student leaders and future CRNAs, it's essential that we show up, speak out, and help educate our legislators about the critical role CRNAs play in delivering safe, high-quality care across Tennessee.

You'll walk the halls of the Capitol, meet face-to-face with policymakers, and stand alongside CRNAs who are passionate about protecting and advancing our profession. It's an empowering experience that not only strengthens your advocacy skills, but also reminds you why this career is so impactful. **Let's represent the strength of Tennessee SRNAs—your voice matters, and the time to use it is now!**



TASNA REPRESENTATIVES

Calling all TASNA/TANA representatives!! If you are a TASNA/TANA representative for your class, please email your name, school, and graduating year to Lisa Bowler so that we can update the website and showcase your representation! We will be using your email to relay important information about upcoming dates/events so please reach out to her as soon as possible! Here is Lisa's email: lisa@tncrna.com

Also, TASNA/TANA representatives, please be on the lookout for upcoming information about the TANA planning retreat that will be held **January 31-February 1 in Franklin, TN**, to prepare for the upcoming year! This will be a great opportunity to meet the TANA board as well as relay important dates back to your class/cohort! We really appreciate your time and dedication to represent your school/class and looking forward to seeing you all at the retreat!



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

As we wrap up an incredible year, we want to take a moment to wish all of our students a joyous holiday season! Whether you're spending time with family, catching up on your favorite hobbies, or diving into clinical practice, we hope you make the most of this special time.

We've had a wonderful year filled with achievements, growth, and unforgettable memories, and we can't wait to see what 2026 has in store for us!

Get ready for more exciting events, learning opportunities, and fun moments in the new year! We look forward to connecting again in the spring of 2026 when our next newsletter will be arriving in your inbox. Until then, have a fantastic holiday and a happy New Year!

